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The main facts, in brief, are that a new fissure opened low down on the northwest quadrant of the volcano and that the large amount of lava emitted from it took its natural course down the valley towards the sea. All the other parts of the island were protected from the lava flow by the ring-like crater wall that girdles the base of the mountain. There was no loss of life.

Very likely, nothing more of importance will be heard of Teneriffe as a volcano for a long time to come. The island is so accessible that expert students of volcanic phenomena are almost certain to visit Teneriffe to investigate the latest great outburst. It is fortunate, for purposes of comparison, that the series of volcanic eruptions in the islands of the Canary group, including Teneriffe, in the years 1730-36, was made the subject of extended observation by Leopold von Buch and that he recorded the results, at length, in his classical work, "Physikalische Beschreibung der Canarischen Inseln."

The last previous great lava flow from the Peak of Teneriffe occurred in 1798, 111 years earlier. Chahorra was the active center having superseded the summit crater. Nearly a century earlier, in 1706, a great lava flow destroyed the town of Garachico which stands on the coast, about 7 miles northwest of Chahorra.

The only report we have of an eruption, that evidently occurred in 1492, is a mere mention made by Columbus in his day book, when he was on his first journey to America. He wrote that on the nights of August 21-25 "We saw a great fire springing out of the Mountain of Teneriffe."

THE PARKER EXPEDITION TO MT. McKINLEY*

BY

BELMORE BROWNE

As far as our plans were concerned, the pack horse method of approaching Mt. McKinley from the west and north was eliminated by the failure of the earlier efforts in this direction. We also found that a pack train attack from the Tanana side was out of the question on account of the length of time required. We then had to choose between the winter approach with dog teams, and the southern, or motor boat route.

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* Professor Herschel C. Parker, adjunct professor of Physics in Columbia University, Mr. J. H. Cuntz of the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, Mr. Belmore Browne, the mountaineer and writer, and Mr. Herman L. Tucker, of the U. S. Forest Service, left New York late in April for Seattle, whence they will sail for Alaska to attempt the ascent of Mt. McKinley and the survey and mapping of a part of the mountain region around it.

In theory the dog team approach seems to be the best. Travelling over the snow would necessitate leaving the Tanana River in February. The party, reaching the mountain early in the spring would probably be able to drive their dogs to the actual base of Mt. McKinley. With a base camp at a high altitude, the party might then devote several weeks to studying the best route to follow. We, however, were forced to give up this approach as we did not have the time necessary for a winter attack.

We therefore turned our attention to the southern motor boat route on which our plans are based. Entering the Susitna River, from Cook Inlet we will ascend it for over sixty miles in a specially constructed motor boat. On reaching the Chulitna River our party will leave the Susitna and follow the first named river to a point just below the Ruth Glacier. This glacier extends south from Mt. McKinley for 40 miles and forms a broad but rather rough roadway to the big mountain. Our base camp will be pitched at the base of this great river of ice, and from this point we will push our mountain equipment towards Mount McKinley by relays. Our mountain base will be within two easy or one long days' travel of the southern base of the mountain and from here the reconnaissance parties will proceed. This camp will also be the base from which our topographical work will be carried on.

The chief interest of this approach is that no one has been nearer than 15 miles from the mountain on this side. Our party will have the task of locating the great ridges, glaciers, and peaks and mapping them. We believe that the southern face of Mt. McKinley cannot be climbed, and it is swept by avalanches of such size that the very mountains shake under the impact of the thousands of tons of snow and ice that fall from the mighty cliffs. But from our base camp, reconnaissance parties will be able to reach the southwestern and northeastern arêtes and our final attempt will undoubtedly lead along one of these great ridges. For this work we have a mountain outfit unequaled, I believe, in American mountain climbing.

Our tents will accommodate five men and are made of light waterproof material. They have been made to stand the force of mountain hurricanes and are practically wind proof. Our sleeping-bags are necessarily light; but in mountain work the climbers will sleep with their clothes on. The bags consist of a waterproof cover, with a light inner blanket of camel's hair, outside which is a light eiderdown quilt.

In climbing we will use the Swiss braided mountain rope, and, for overcoming the snow slopes, will be provided with both Swiss and English ice axes and ice creepers. The food will be the same as that used in Arctic work: pemmican, erbswurst, raisins, hardtack, tea and sugar. The only cooking necessary will be the boiling of water for making tea, or soup, and for this purpose we are supplied with alcohol and kerosene stoves.

Our mountain clothing is all wool, and includes hoods, gloves and puttees. As many attempted mountain ascents have failed through members of the party freezing their feet, we will wear three pairs of woolen socks in the higher altitudes. Our mountain shoes will be the regulation hob nailed leather shoe for rock and glacier work, and rubber shoe packs fitted with ice creepers will be worn on the mountains.

For determining mountain altitudes, we shall carry two hypsometers, two self-recording barometers and thermometers, one high altitude mercurial barometer and three aneroid barometers, registering respectively 10,,000, 18,000 and 20,000 feet. Minimum thermometers, thermometers, hypsometers, and pocket anemometers complete the list. For map making we will have the regular topographical instruments.

Our method of travel will be by relays, and when a suitable amount of food is gathered at the base of the mountain, reconnaissance parties will be sent out. There will be many difficulties to overcome in this work. While our object is primarily to climb Mount McKinley, our climbing will really begin 40 miles from the summit, and for the entire distance our equipment must be the same as that actually used on the summit.

On reaching the base of the mountain, we will still be confronted by about 17,000 feet of ice and snow climbing. This is an unusual feature in mountaineering, as on all the high peaks of the Himalaya and Andes the actual climbing begins at a high altitude, and a peak of the same height as Mt. McKinley would only carry about 4,000 feet of perpetual snow.